

Project Abstract

Applicant Name: Pat Barnes Chapter of Montana Trout Unlimited

Project Title: Flow study in the Lower Little Blackfoot River

Project Description and Benefits to Restoration:

This Small Project Grant would be used to measure the parameters of total river flow, total diversion, and total groundwater recharge on a reach specific basis along the Little Blackfoot River (LBR) from Avon to Garrison. This data would then be assimilated with similar flow data from an ongoing project in the LBR between Elliston and Avon to identify the location and duration of the reach specific target flows that would be necessary to meet suggested TMDL flow standards.

Proposed field work would include stream discharge measurements above and below eleven major irrigation diversions. A weekly schedule of monitoring would begin in June and end in October. The data would then be analyzed on a reach specific basis to determine how much water was going where, and how water necessary for meaningful in-stream flows could best be obtained to minimize impacts on agriculture. This study would also provide information on the effect of irrigation return on total groundwater recharge, a stated area of stakeholder concern.

A 1959 Powell County Water Resources Report named the LBR water shed as “only fair.” In 2002 Fish Wildlife and Parks listed the LBR from Elliston Creek to the confluence with the Clark Fork as a chronic stream-dewatering area of concern. Things have gone from fair to worse, and if history is any judge, the status quo is unlikely to change without the kind of impetus that reach specific flow data would provide.

The Pat Barnes Chapter of Trout Unlimited proposes to work closely with the Little Blackfoot Watershed Group, Montana Land and Water, and the Montana Water Trust, realizing that any realization of meaningful in-stream flows will build on the work these organizations have so capably begun.

PROPOSAL BUDGET

EXPENSE CATEGORY		UCFRB REST. FUND	APPLICANT CONTRIBUTION			OUTSIDE SOURCES			TOTAL
			Cash	In-Kind	Sub- Total	Cash	In-Kind	Subtotal	
1	SALARIES, WAGES, ADMINISTRATION								
2	FRINGE BENEFITS								
3	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$25,000.00	\$3,500.00	5,680.00					\$34,180.00
4	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS								
5	COMMUNICATIONS								
6	TRAVEL								
7	CONTRACTED SERVICES								
8	EQUIPMENT								
9	MISCELLANEOUS								
TOTAL		\$25,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$5680.00					\$34,180.00